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**Is old cool? Students' knowledge of and attitudes towards older people.**

Michelle Bissett, Karin Gonzalez  
*University of Western Sydney, Sydney, NSW, Australia*

**Introduction:** Despite the high proportion of health professionals working with older people, concerns have been raised regarding negative attitudes among them and the subsequent negative impact this has on the health outcomes of older people. As the population ages, there is expected to be an increase in the number of occupational therapists (OTs) working with older people. Graduates will require specific knowledge and realistic attitudes to effectively work in this area. Examination of student knowledge and attitudes are of interest as these may be shaped during undergraduate training. This study examined first year occupational therapy (OT) student knowledge of and attitudes towards older people. **Methods:** First year OT students at the University of Western Sydney were surveyed using Palmore's Facts on Aging Quiz and Kogan's Attitudes Toward Old People Scale to measure students' knowledge and attitudes. Data was analysed using SPSS. **Results:** This is the first study to examine knowledge and attitudes of Australian OT students. Surveys were completed by 217 first year OT students between 2007 and 2009. This presentation will discuss the knowledge and attitudes held by first year OT students. It will also make comment on how educators can assist student development of knowledge and attitudes throughout their undergraduate training. **Conclusion:** OTs play an important role in the provision of health care services to older people. To ensure graduates provide high quality care in this area of practice, students need to be knowledgeable about ageing and have realistic attitudes towards older people. **Learning outcomes:** Understanding students' attitudes towards older people allows OT educators to review occupational therapy curriculum and develop education strategies to ensure that students graduate with an accurate understanding of the ageing process and the needs of older people. This presentation will be of interest to academics and clinical educators.